

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Department of Justice—COPS  
Law Enforcement Technology

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Sarasota County

Address of Requesting Entity: 1660 Ringling Blvd. Sarasota, FL 34236

Description of Request: I secured \$600,000 for Emergency Technology and Communications from the COPS account for Sarasota County.

Sarasota County is requesting federal assistance to help fund the next generation E-911 VOIP network technology component of a new multifaceted Emergency Operations 911 Public Safety Communications Center. The technology component will replace the current 30-year-old 911 call-taking network (recognizing only voice calls). This equipment is vital to helping keep the people of Sarasota County safe.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO REVEREND  
ROBERT ROYAL ON HIS 80TH  
BIRTHDAY

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2009*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor and enthusiasm that I rise to congratulate my good friend Reverend Robert Royal as he joins his family, long time friends, and the Harlem community together in celebration of his 80th Birthday. This momentous and joyous occasion will be celebrated with an extraordinary affair on March 1, 2009 in the headquarters of "Our Children's Foundation" in my beloved village of Harlem.

Reverend Royal has a very rich history that has given him life and longevity. It all began in the winter day of January 27, 1929. At the tender age of fifteen, Mary, his dear mother, gave birth and quickly abandon her newborn on the streets of Harlem. Among the many reasons that could compel a mother to make such a heart wrenching decision, one can only assume that uncertainty in her tender age and the economic downturn that was to become the Great Depression later on that year, were strong reasons for such a decisive conclusion.

Robert Royal was placed in the old New York Hospital Founding Children's Home, under the administrations of the Catholic Archdioceses of New York. As a youngster, he was loved, cared for, and reared by nine surrogate mothers. Before this eighth birthday, he was transferred to the Riverdale Orphanage for Colored Children. In 1937, he was finally adopted by a distant uncle who lived in Stamford, Connecticut.

Robert returned to Harlem and attended Cooper Junior High School. He excelled in his studies and was given the honor to represent his school at the New York Daily Mirror International Youth Forum. Among the 500 attendees, he was selected to be one of the five panelist chairs. He went on to complete his High School education at Seward Park High School.

During the Korean War, there was a call to national service. He answered the call of conscription and become a warrior in the fight for freedom. Young Robert was among the many that had a near fatal experience, becoming a

disabled Korean War Veteran. His heroic actions earned him two Bronze Stars and the President's coveted Distinguished Service Medal.

Battered, wounded, with medals on his chest, and limited choices in his life, Royal returned to the Village of Harlem. He sought out to write his own ticket for a better future by entering the City College of New York. Like so many G.I.'s coming home from the war, he was able to take full advantage of the G.I. Bill. Higher learning resulted in an undergraduate degree in accounting with a minor in Law of Labor Standards.

Robert's public service career began shortly thereafter at the NYC Department of Hospitals as an auditor. Later, he worked for the NYC Department of Public Works, the United States Internal Revenue Service, and as a publication typesetter for the United Nations.

Robert's call to the ministry in 1974 led to entering New York Theological Seminary, where he received a Masters of Divinity. Reverend Royal is presently serving as Executive Director of the New Brighton Local Community Development Corporation and Minister of Social Justice at Saint Paul Baptist Church under the leadership of Reverend Dr. V. DuWayne Battle.

Reverend Royal continues to be known for his extraordinary commitment, energy, wisdom, discipline, principle, and clear purpose which have won the admiration of all who are privileged to come to know and work with him. I consider myself fortunate to have the opportunity to observe and experience his example as a personal inspiration.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in honoring and congratulating Reverend Robert Royal on his historic 80th Birthday. His constant dedication, commitment, and spiritual guidance is worthy of the highest esteem.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION  
OF H.R. 1105, OMNIBUS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2009

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2009*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I am glad we are finally wrapping up our FY 09 Appropriations work and offer this legislation my full support today.

Instead of slashing our federal investment in priorities like education, health care, energy, law enforcement and biomedical research as President Bush had demanded, this bill complements the economic recovery package by addressing our Nation's immediate needs while laying the foundation for long term economic growth.

For example, to help 6.9 million families pay for college and prepare our students to compete in the 21st century global economy, we allocate \$17.3 billion—or \$3 billion more than 2008—for Pell Grants.

To provide health care for over 470,000 uninsured Americans during this economic downturn, we provide \$2.2 billion—or \$125 million above last year's levels—for our community health centers.

To accelerate the deployment of renewable energy technologies and the jobs that go with

them, we include \$18.5 billion in additional loan guarantee authority for renewables in the Department of Energy's Innovative Technology Loan Guarantee Program.

To keep our communities safe, we designate \$3.2 billion—or \$495 billion above 2008—for State and local enforcement.

And to ensure that America remains the global leader in lifesaving biomedical research, we invest \$30.3 billion—or \$938 million more than last year—in the National Institutes of Health.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a long time coming, but we now see it was worth the wait. I will cast a "yes" vote and urge my colleagues to do the same.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO  
FAMILIES OF VICTIMS OF CRASH  
OF CONTINENTAL CONNECTION  
FLIGHT 3407

SPEECH OF

**HON. ERIC J.J. MASSA**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2009*

Mr. MASSA. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep solemnity that I take this moment to offer my sincere condolences to the families and friends of the 50 individuals who lost their lives when Flight 3407 crashed in Clarence, NY on February 12th. While we can never bring them back we can make sure they are honorably remembered for their many contributions, both big and small, in the lives of those all around them. I further extend my condolences to my colleague, Rep. CHRIS LEE, who represents the 26th Congressional District where the tragedy occurred.

KLEIN COLLINS ROTC

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 26, 2009*

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievements of the Air Force Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) Flying Tigers of Klein Collins High School in Klein, Texas. I want to thank the AFJROTC Flying Tigers for their service to second district of Texas and to congratulate them on their many accomplishments that led them to be chosen to perform in this year's presidential inaugural parade.

Their selection to this high honor is a testament to their mission statement "to develop the best Air Force leaders and citizens of character, dedicated to serving the Nation." I am proud that a well-qualified group of cadets from Klein—Collins will be representing the state of Texas on Pennsylvania Avenue.

The KCHS AFJROTC has a history of success in their nationally acclaimed armed and unarmed drill team competitions. Under the direction of Colonel Daniel Crum and Sergeant Ray Watson, the cadets do much more than drill competitions and marching in parades. They are involved in serving their school and community through many different service projects and duties performed throughout the year.